

I am proud to say that we Americans continue our long tradition of compassion and generosity in responding to these needs. The United States is the primary donor of food aid in the world and the leading donor of food aid to Sudan and Chad. The U.S. Government has contributed a total of \$282.2 million worth of food aid thus far in FY 2006 to Darfur and the Sudanese refugees in Chad through the World Food Program and the International Committee of the Red Cross. This follows contributions totaling \$324.5 million to the same two organizations in FY 2005 for Sudan and Chad, in addition to 200,000 tons of wheat from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust for Darfur.

The United States is also addressing the nutritional needs of particularly vulnerable populations. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief maximizes leverage with other donors including the USAID, the USDA and the World Food Program (with U.S. financial support) to address the needs of HIV-affected communities, both in terms of providing direct food assistance and in addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity.

During the hearing, we heard from our distinguished witnesses about the hunger crises in our world, what is being done to respond, and recommendations as to how we can respond better. Witnesses also testified about the contribution that U.S. food aid makes to longer-term, non-emergency development goals and the corresponding impact that this food aid has on individual lives. The most recent data available indicates that over 4 million children in 26 countries participated in the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program in fiscal years 2003 and 2004. This program has resulted in higher school enrollment and improved access to education, especially for girls.

It is also reported by teachers and program administrators that the FFE program has increased local communities' concern for and participation in their children's education. There is a general improvement in academic performance as children are better able to concentrate after receiving a nutritious school lunch. Both families and the school community benefit from training on food preparation, health and hygiene. In this regard, we were privileged to hear testimony from Mr. Gabriel Laizer, who now works on international development issues for the Alliance to End Hunger and who started his career as a beneficiary of a feeding program in his primary school in Arusha, Tanzania.

My good friend Tony Hall, a former Member of Congress who just recently left his position as the U.S. Ambassador to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture, also testified. He has published a book recently entitled, "Changing the Face of Hunger," which I highly recommend, and which recounts many stories from Ambassador Hall's years of confronting hunger, poverty and oppression throughout the world. In his conclusion, he writes, "when you show Americans the poor and the hungry—when you connect with them and educate them and they see the problems themselves—they don't turn their backs. They want to help. They respond. We are a compassionate people, a giving people. We care."

In that spirit of compassion, I would ask my colleagues in Congress to continue to support the FY2006 emergency supplemental appro-

priation of \$350 million for food aid. While encouraging other international donors to respond in a likewise generous manner, we must continue to help, to respond, to show that we care.

It is my hope and expectation that we may further educate ourselves, our colleagues in Congress and the American people about the poor and the hungry, and we may respond with the compassion that they so desperately need.

HONORING ASHLEY HULTMAN ON THE COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Ashley Hultman for her service during her internship in my Washington, DC, office. During her time on Capitol Hill, she has been a great help to me, my staff and my constituents in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Ashley is no stranger to the workings of a congressional office. Prior to interning in the Nation's capital, she assisted the staff in my Murfreesboro, Tennessee, office. While helping us with countless projects and endearing herself to constituents as she guided them through the Capitol or helped them cut through red tape at Federal agencies, she has certainly gained a wealth of experience that I hope will serve her well.

While we have enjoyed her help, Ashley now must return to Middle Tennessee to complete her degree at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University, where she is studying art history and political science.

I hope Ashley has enjoyed her internships as much as we have enjoyed having her help here in Washington, as well as in Murfreesboro. I wish her all the best in the future.

STATEMENT ON PASSING OF G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Mr. Veteran, Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery, who died May 12.

He served for 30 years in the House and I was lucky enough to serve with him on the Veterans Committee.

When I was first elected to Congress in 1992, I knew that I wanted to serve on the Veterans Committee. I could think of no better way to serve my constituents or my country than to be on the committee that oversees the Department responsible for helping so many people. Sonny Montgomery was my inspiration.

I was a new member and introduced myself to the chairman. A more gracious and gentle man you could not meet.

I was walking down the hall with the former Speaker from the Florida legislature. Sonny

made a comment that I was a pleasure to work with and how much he enjoyed my participation in the Committee. The former Florida Speaker said you don't know her very well, she'll cut your heart out.

He was deeply committed to the cause of veterans and worked in a bipartisan manner to get that done. He also started the Bipartisan Prayer Breakfast which still meets every week.

Everyone was Sonny's friend. He was blessed to be surrounded by so many caring friends.

"Let the work that I have done speak for me" is a favorite line from a hymn. This line explains how Sonny lived his life.

God Bless Sonny Montgomery.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. ROXANNE DODSON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise before you today in appreciation of a woman who has dedicated her life to educating young people. For eighteen and a half years, Ms. Roxanne Dodson has taught the beauty of art to Aberdeen Middle School students in Harford County. She has gained support and admiration from her peers and the school's administrators for her gift of education.

Art is a subject which is unlike any other. It is not a matter of right or wrong; instead it is a test of one's inner self. Some students simply do not have a natural gift in the arts; however, Ms. Dodson teaches personal growth and self acceptance. Students are rewarded for their courage to experiment and "think outside the box." They are taught much more than basic lines, curves and colors: they are taught how to try something new and accept the talents they possess.

Ms. Dodson is devoted to the students of Aberdeen Middle School. She uses her honed skills to assist with the school plays, concerts, and other special events. She says, "When a student knows a teacher cares, the emotional walls, no matter how thick, start to disintegrate."

I believe a successful learning environment is a safe environment. When students feel safe, they give more of themselves to the classroom, which results in learning. This is critical for the arts. An artist, no matter what level, must tear down their defensive walls to produce good, honest work.

Ms. Dodson received a Maryland Art Education award for outstanding service in 2001. Using her Masters degree in at-risk students, she developed a program to engage students who lack connection to other extra-curricular activities. This group created a garden entrance in their courtyard.

Ms. Dodson allows students to believe in themselves. She shows them the potential they have and encourages them to see their strengths. Her humorous and down-to-earth personality makes her approachable by students. She is among the elite in educators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me in thanking Ms. Roxanne Dodson for awakening the expectations of her students and stimulating the creativity they will need for the